



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Michael Moseley, Director

November 14, 2005

MEMORANDUM

To: Legislative Oversight Committee Members
Commission for MH/DD/SAS
Consumer/Family Advisory Committee Chairs
State Consumer Family Advisory Committee
Advocacy Organizations and Groups
North Carolina Association of County Commissioners
County Managers
County Manager Chairs
North Carolina Council of Community Programs
State Facility Directors
Area Program Directors
Area Program Board Chairs
DHHS Division Directors
Provider Organizations
MH/DD/SAS Professional Organizations and Groups
MH/DD/SAS Stakeholder Organizations and Groups
Other MH/DD/SAS Stakeholders

From: Mike Moseley

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mike Moseley".

A blue rectangular logo with the text "State Plan Communication Bulletin" in white. To the right of the text is a white silhouette of the state of North Carolina.

Re: Communication Bulletin #050

Approved List of Agencies That (a) May
Accredit Providers of MH/DD/SA Services,
and (b) May Accredit LMEs for Systems
Management

The purpose of this Communication Bulletin is to provide an update on agencies that the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (Division) and the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) have agreed to recognize as (a) accrediting agencies for the provision of mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services and (b) accrediting agencies of LMEs for systems management functions. In addition to the list of accrediting agencies, this Communication Bulletin also outlines an accreditation firewall for situations in which Local Management Entities (LMEs) concurrently provide services and perform systems management functions.



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Attachments A and B to this Communication Bulletin include the agencies currently approved for the accreditation of services and LME systems management functions. The Division has established lists of national accrediting agencies that provide sufficient choice for the variety of LMEs and service providers that currently constitute our public mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse system.

I. Accreditation of Services:

The draft service definitions included in the package of mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services titled "Division of Medical Assistance Clinical Policy No.: 8A, Attachment E, Rehab Options Service Definitions" are scheduled to go into effect when approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and require that the agency that enrolls to provide service must achieve national accreditation. As set forth in the respective service definitions, national accreditation must be achieved within three (3) years of enrollment as a provider. The list of national accrediting agencies approved by the Division and DMA to satisfy this requirement is included in this Communication Bulletin as Attachment A.

All accreditation reviews by these service accrediting agencies include reviews against standards for agency management, quality improvement and other administrative functions. In order to satisfy the requirements of the service definition, the accreditation must include standards which are applicable to the provision of the service for which the provider is enrolled.

Only the above referenced service definitions currently require national accreditation of the service provider in order to provide the service. However, national accreditation is consistent with the goals of system reform and helps provide assurances that providers of mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services are striving to meet nationally researched and established standards. It is likely that other service definitions, which do not currently require national accreditation, will be modified in the future to require that providers attain national accreditation in order to continue to provide such services.

II. Accreditation of LMEs for Systems Management Functions per the DHHS/LME Performance Contract:

LMEs are required to become nationally accredited for systems management functions. Attachment B of this Communication Bulletin updates the list of currently approved LME systems management accrediting organizations with the addition of the Council on Accreditation (COA) and the Utilization Review Accreditation Commission (URAC). This brings to four (4) the number of LME accrediting organizations which the Division and DMA have agreed to recognize. The listing of the Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), which is included as an option in the Performance Contract, is deleted due to that agency's notification that it is ceasing to perform network accreditation as of January 1, 2006.

III. Accreditation Firewall for LMEs that Also Provide Services:

In order to help ensure a firewall between LME systems management functions and services that an LME is approved by the Secretary of DHHS to provide, the Division and DMA have agreed to the following policy. If an LME provides any of the services that require national accreditation during its divestiture process, the Division and DMA will not recognize LME accreditation and accreditation of the LME as a service provider from the same accrediting agency. In other words, accreditation of an LME for systems management functions and accreditation of services provided by the same LME must be accredited by different accrediting organizations. This firewall, however, in no way impacts the ability of an accrediting organization to accredit an LME for systems management functions and for the same organization to accredit other public or private providers for the provision of services.



Should you have any questions regarding this Communication Bulletin, please contact Jim Jarrard, DMH/DD/SAS Accountability Team Leader, at 919-881-2446 or via e-mail at Jim.Jarrard@ncmail.net

MM/MB/jj/ph

Attachments

cc: Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom
Allen Dobson
Allyn Guffey
Dan Stewart
Richard Slipsky
Carol Duncan Clayton
Coalition 2001 Chair
DMH/DD/SAS Executive Leadership Team

Rob Lamme
SCFAC Chair
Kaye Holder
Wayne Williams
Dick Oliver
Patrice Roesler
DMH/DD/SAS Staff



ATTACHMENT A

CONTACT PERSONS

For

**Agencies Approved by DMH/DD/SAS and DMA to
Accredit Providers of MH/DD/SA Services**

Approved Accreditation Agencies For Service Provider Accreditation:

1. Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL)
2. Council on Accreditation (COA)
3. CARF – Originally Council on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, International (CARF)
4. Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)

Agency	Agency Contact	Title	Mailing Address	Phone No.	FAX No.	E-Mail Address
CQL	Tammi Odom	Operations Coordinator	100 West Road, Suite 406, Towson, MD 21204	443-415-7563	443-583-0063	TOdom8151@aol.com
COA	Tobi Harrington Murch	Provider Relations	120 Wall Street, 11th floor New York, NY 10005	212-797-3000, ext 267	212-797-1428	Tmurch@coanet.org
CARF	Alexandria Soto	Resource Specialist	CARF International 4891 East Grant Road Tucson, AZ 85712	888-281-6531, ext 145	520-318-1129	asoto@carf.org
JCAHO	Peggy Williams	Associate Director, Behavioral Health Program	One Renaissance Blvd. Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181	630-792-5411	630-792-4790	pwilliams@jcaho.org
	Mary Cesare-Murphy	Executive Director, Behavioral Health Care Accreditation	One Renaissance Blvd. Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181	630-792-5790	630-792-4790	mcesaremurphy@jcaho.org

ATTACHMENT B

CONTACT PERSONS

For

**Agencies Approved by DMH/DD/SAS and DMA to
Accredit Systems Management Functions of Local Management Entities (LMEs)**

Approved Accrediting Agencies for Local Management Entity (LME) Behavioral Health Management Functions:

1. Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL)
2. Council on Accreditation (COA)
3. Council on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, International, now called CARF
4. National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)
5. Utilization Review Accreditation Commission, now called URAC

Agency	Agency Contact	Standards	Mailing Address	Phone No.	FAX No.	E-Mail Address
CQL	Tammi Odom	Network Standards	100 West Road, Suite 406, Towson, MD 21204	443-415-7563	443-583-0063	TOdom8151@aol.com
COA	Allison Blake: Director, Public Accreditation & Government Relations	Network Standards	120 Wall Street, 11th floor New York, NY 10005	212-797-3000, ext.289, or 866-262-8088	212-797-1428	ablake@coanet.org
CARF	Lisa Palmer: Account Manager, Behavioral Health Unit	Behavioral Healthcare Network Management	CARF International 4891 East Grant Road Tucson, AZ 85712	888-281-6531 ext. 129	520-318-1129	lpalmer@carf.org
NCQA	Jeannie L. Simpson: Manager, Customer Outreach	Behavioral Healthcare Management Organization	2000 L St. NW, Suite 500 Washington, DC 20036	202-955-5137	202-955-3599	simpson@ncqa.org
URAC	Kristin Goudreau: Business Development Department	Health Call Center plus Health Network	1220 L St. NW, Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20005	202-216-9010	202-216-9006	BusinessDevelopment@urac.org